The Development Departments should be amalgamated.

The delay in the execution of minor irrigation works by the P. W. Department resulted in untold harships to the agriculturists. A separate Minor Irrigation Department should be organised.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Madhavan Nayar, I shall reply collectively to your representation on the Assembly and the administrative reforms after I have heard the other members who have to speak on the same subject. Besides these two, you referred to another matter to which I might say a word in reply. Your suggestions in regard to the reform of the system of education and the amalgamation of the Development Departments have been noted by the Government and will be made use of when occasion arises.

195. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. KRISHNA PILLAI MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli taluk, Group I*) said that it was surprising that a member proposed to urge the abolition of the Assembly while there was a pronounced movement of opinion in favour of its rejuvenation and reform. The suggestions made from time to time in the Assembly helped Government to achieve great reforms for the people of the land.

The institution was based on an executive order of Government. It should be given statutory recognition.

The Assembly should be made more representative by lowering the franchise. The property qualification of voters should be lowered. The sex disqualification should be removed and all graduates should be enfranchised. Important representations should be discussed and voted upon in the Assembly. A representative of the Assembly should be nominated to the committees appointed by Government from to time for other than legislative purposes. Representations should be replied to by the respective Heads of Departments.

A committee consisting of representatives of the Legislative Council and of the Assembly should be appointed for drafting a revised constitution on the above lines.

196. The necessity for discontinuing the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and for delegating its present functions along with other functions conducive to the development of self-government to Taluk Boards to be newly constituted on an elective basis under a wider franchise and composed of a non-official majority of three to one.

MR. V. CHANDY ITTY (*Kottayam taluk, Group I*) said that it was pure sentimentalism to preach the retention of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly which, however beneficial it might have been in the past, had outgrown its usefulness. The Legislative Council, as remodelled in 1097, had superseded the Assembly in constitutional importance. The case made out for the continuance of the Assembly was that it made possible some sort of personal contact between the Government and the governed. But that advantage was hardly commensurate with the worry involved.